

THE Trumpet

The monthly newsletter of the Office of the State Fire Marshal



The Trumpet—August 2013



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Dan Thompson
announces retirement**

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Dan Thompson, Chief of OSFM's Hazardous Materials Division, has announced his plans to retire.



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@ksfiremarshal

From the Fire Marshal

July marked the completion of my first full year serving as the Fire Marshal for the State of Kansas. I have been honored with the privilege of working with an outstanding staff dedicated to our mission of protecting Kansans from the hazards of fire, explosions and hazardous chemicals. I have also been privileged to work closely with the fire service and other first responders, not to mention legislators, executives from business and industry, and the office of Governor Brownback to help them provide a safer state for Kansans to live and work.

Here are just a few of our highlights from this past year:

- Our office worked closely with the fireworks industry on new business-friendly legislation along with rules and regulations. With these improvements in place, the citizens of Kansas are safeguarded while businesses in the fireworks industry are enabled to be more competitive with their counterparts in neighboring states.
- We assumed the responsibilities for the boiler and high pressure vessel inspections from the Department of Labor, as part of the continuing effort by the Brownback administration to streamline efficiencies in the areas of state inspections and licensing.
- We continue to work with the explosive industry, local fire service, and the legislature to correct the problem of the state having no explosive rules or regulations. Temporary rules and regulations are currently in place and we will be working to have permanent ones in place in the very near future.
- Our office is moving forward with being the lead agency for search and rescue team coordination in Kansas and was recently recognized on the Federal and State levels as the state coordinating agency for search and rescue in Kansas.
- We launched a new agency website brimming with all the information, forms, rules and regulations you would need — and in a much easier to navigate format. Check it out at FireMarshal.ks.gov.
- We are celebrating our agency's centennial. The OSFM officially began protecting the lives and property of Kansans from fire, explosions and accidents involving hazardous chemicals in March 1913.

Last, but not least, I'd like to recognize Dan Thompson who, after 13 years as our Chief of Haz-Mat, has announced his plans to retire. Dan has done an outstanding job of coordinating Haz-Mat response teams throughout the state and I wish him well in his retirement years. Be sure to read the interview with Dan in this issue of *The Trumpet*.

As always, remember that your OSFM is ready and willing to be of assistance. Please feel free to contact us anytime via phone or email.



Doug Jorgensen



August 2013



Fire Marshal

Doug Jorgensen

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Our Mission

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the people of Kansas from the hazards of fire, explosion and hazardous materials by fostering a safe environment through education, inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, hazardous material incident mitigation, data collection, and by acting as a liaison to the Kansas Fire Service.

All of the efforts of the Office are designed to reduce the deaths, injuries and property losses of Kansans.

Trumpet Deadline

For information on receiving the State Fire Marshal *Trumpet* or to submit your meeting notices, training announcements, articles, photos or other information, please contact Kevin Doel. Photos should be submitted as a .jpg or .tif attachment to an email. All materials are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

By the Numbers

During 2007-2011, U.S. local fire departments responded to an estimated average of 22,600 fires per year that were started by lightning. These fires caused an average of nine civilian deaths, 53 civilian injuries, and \$451 million in direct property damage per year.

Source: NFPA

In 2011, cooking caused 44% of reported home fires.

Source: NFPA

20 years ago, the US Forest Service spent 13 percent of its budget on fire-fighting. Today, that figure has swelled to 40 percent.

Source: *New York Times*



HOT NEWS FROM THE OSFM

Nominations Being Accepted for Tom McGaughey Award



Chief Tom McGaughey

On the evening of Thursday, November 21, 1968 a fire alarm was received from the Yingling Chevrolet Company of Wichita, Kansas. While fighting the fire, the roof collapsed and Fire Chief Tom McGaughey, Chief Fire Inspector M.O. Wells, firefighters Dale J. Mishler and Jimmy Lee Austin, were trapped under tons of burning debris and twisted steel.

In 1971, in memory of Chief Tom McGaughey, his fellow firefighters and this tragic event, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs and the Kansas State Firefighters Association adopted the Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award to be presented at the Fire Chiefs Conference to the fire department and the firefighter or firefighters whose bravery and courage went above and beyond the call of

duty.

Nominations for the 2013 calendar year are being accepted now. Nominations should be in the form of a letter that includes the details of the incident, and the name or names of the firefighters you wish to nominate for bravery and courage above and beyond the call of duty. Additional documentation, including pictures, video and/or news media articles will help support and justify your nominations. The deadline for accepting nominations is **September 13, 2013**.

Send nominations to:

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Attention: Tom McGaughey Award
700 SW Jackson, Suite 600
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3714



As Chief McGaughey's funeral procession left the church, it proceeded past Wichita Fire Dept. Station #1 where the men on duty stood at attention in a final display of respect

OSFM Working to Becoming Lead Agency for Coordinating State Search and Rescue Teams

The OSFM is moving forward with becoming the state agency for coordinating Search and Rescue teams in Kansas.

As a result of the current plan to coordinate search and rescue operations in the state, our office is now recognized by the Federal and other State

Search and Rescue agencies as the Search and Rescue Coordinating agency for Kansas.

How easily can your house be found in an emergency?



Our office is commencing a campaign to encourage Kansans to take a fresh look at how visible their addresses are from the street. Could they be easily seen by fire, police or medical professionals should they be called to respond to an emergency

at their homes?

In an emergency, police, fire and rescue workers depend on house numbers to find the right home as quickly as possible. Finding a specific house - especially at night - can be challenging if address numbers are unreadable, hidden, unlighted or have missing numbers. Delays in finding a home due to these conditions may delay emergency responders from getting to you as quickly as possible.

Following are some helpful guidelines to make it easier for first responders to find your house in an emergency:

1. Numbers should be visible from the street. Existing residential home numbering can be 3 1/2 inches high, however 5-inches high is preferable.
2. Numbers should be placed on

a contrasting background, with a reflective coating on the numbers for easy visibility at night.

3. Aging address number placards, especially on mailboxes that are a distance from the front of the residence, should be replaced.

4. Bushes, tree limbs or other growth that has covered house numbers should be pruned.

5. Numbers should be placed on or beside the front door. If the front door is not easily seen from the street, put the numbers on a post, fence or tree at the driveway entrance so they can be clearly seen from the street.

In addition to numbers on the front door, those with rural-style mailboxes should install reflective and contrasting numbers on both sides of the box so they can be seen by an emergency vehicle approaching from either direction. Address numbers can also be spray painted onto curbs at the driveway entrance using contrasting paint colors, such as black-on-white or white-on-black.

For more information, visit FireMarshal.ks.gov/canwefindyou.



Can we find your house in an emergency?

You can help emergency responders locate your home by following these steps:

- ♦ Clear all obstructions (Hanging plants, bushes, flags, etc.)
- ♦ Post large numbers (To allow visibility from the road)
- ♦ Have numbers near the road or on the curb
- ♦ Allow numbers to be seen from all directions (If your home is on a corner, have numbers posted on all sides)

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE!

For more information and tips, visit FireMarshal.ks.gov/canwefindyou

This message brought to you by...



Ask us about these cards which can be printed and distributed to homes in your community

Haz-Mat Chief Dan Thompson Announces Retirement



Dan Thompson, Chief of the OSFM Haz-Mat division, is retiring in September. *Trumpet* interviewed Dan about his career and about the Haz-Mat program he has lead for 13 years.

After 13 years of leading the OSFM Haz-Mat division, which aims to enhance the safety of Kansans by making trained, equipped hazardous materials teams available throughout the state, division chief Dan Thompson has announced his retirement this September.

Prior to joining the OSFM, Dan served 30 years with the Ottumwa, Iowa Fire Department. He held such positions as Firefighter, Training Officer, and Chief of the Department. During his nine year tenure as Chief he also served as the County Emergency Management Coordinator.

Dan holds an Associate's Degree in Fire Science and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He is also a graduate of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program and was certified as a Hazardous Materials Technician, Instructor II, and Inspector I. He also is a graduate of the Kansas Certified Public Manager Program.

Dan and his wife Joyce have been married for 46 years. They have one son, Brian, who is a CPA. Brian's wife, Dana, is a school teacher. Dan and Joyce are also proud grandparents of three grandchildren.

How are the Haz-Mat response teams set up and organized across Kansas, and what are their purpose?

There are 11 teams placed in strategically located fire departments: Colby, Salina, Manhattan, Topeka, Overland Park, Seward County, Ford County, Sedgwick County, Emporia, Winfield, and Coffeyville. These teams support local first responders in hazardous materials incidents, accidents, weapons of mass destruction and acts of terrorism.

Our Haz-Mat division not only provides centralized coordination of Haz-Mat re-

sponse teams across the state, but provides specialized response equipment and training for the team members.

These 11 teams are a resource for any fire department that has a hazardous materials / Weapons of Mass Destruction incident in their jurisdiction and do not have the equipment or training to handle the situation.

There is no charge to the fire department that requests the assistance of the regional Haz-Mat team. Our program will cost-recover expenses from the party responsible for the spill / release if there is one.



Dan Thompson (cont'd)

What kind of emergencies are these teams most commonly responding to?

Our teams respond to tank truck incidents, train derailments, pipeline ruptures, radiation incidents, “white powder” incidents, chemical suicides, unknown chemicals, orphan chemicals, and Weapons of Mass Destruction incidents.

What are the biggest hazards of being on a Haz-Mat response team?

The many hazards team members face include flammables, corrosives, radiological, poisons, flamma-

ble solids, gasses, unknowns and identification, contamination/decontamination.

What are the main tools in their toolkit?

The tools commonly used by members of a Haz-Mat team are detection devices, library resources, personal protective equipment, containment devices, and decontamination equipment. The most important tool in their toolkit, though, is knowledge — which is why we provide so many educational and training opportunities for team members.

What have you found most rewarding during your years directing the Haz-Mat program?

The most rewarding part of my tenure is working closely with the fire departments and team members to design, develop, implement and maintain the hazardous materials regional response system. I have met with many fire service personnel through the years and developed many lasting friendships while promoting and sustaining this program. I will miss all of you with whom I have developed working relationships and those that provided input and provided assistance and ideas throughout the process.

Liquefied Natural Gas DVD Available



Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is being used more and

more as a motor fuel, especially by over-the-road trucks (18 wheelers).

Our state's fire personnel who may be responding to incidents involving those vehicles need to understand the hazards and properties of this fuel.

Our Haz-Mat teams are aware of this product and can mitigate these incidents. Local fire departments need to be aware as they can become involved in a situation before they realize what they are dealing with.

All departments are encouraged to check out the video, “Liquefied Natural Gas,” produced by The National Association of State Fire Marshals

and available through our resource library. This DVD was created under contract with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to provide important information for those planning, coordinating or commanding an emergency response to liquefied natural gas (LNG).

This DVD includes: the physical properties of liquefied natural gas (LNG); the design of LNG containers, storage facilities and transport ships; correct loading, storage and transportation of LNG; potential failure scenarios involving LNG; response strategies for an accident; the four lines of defense to reduce conse-

quences of an accident; federal safety standards for LNG and security regulations.

This DVD is available on loan from our Resource Library as well as many other educational, training and informational selections, curriculum packages and more.



KIDS in the KITCHEN

DO YOU LIKE HELPING OUT IN THE KITCHEN and cooking up tasty snacks for your friends and family? Preparing yummy treats can be lots of fun, but it's important that kids who like to cook know how to be safe in the kitchen. These tips can help you figure out what you're old enough to do on your own—and when it's time to **ask an adult for help**.

Getting Started: Before you get cooking, you need to get a grown-up's permission. If you plan to use a recipe, look it over with a grown-up first to decide what you can do on your own and what you need help with. And once you get started, never be afraid to ask for help. Even the best chefs rely on their assistants to help them out in the kitchen.

Helping out is Fun: From mixing up cake batter to cutting shapes out of cookie dough, helping out a grownup in the kitchen can be lots of fun. So if you're not old enough yet to cook on your own, not to worry; being the chef's helper is the most important job in the kitchen.

Cooking for All Ages: All kids are different—and a grown-up should always decide what is safe for you to do in the kitchen—but here are some guidelines that you can use.



Kids aged 3–5 can:

- Get ingredients out of the refrigerator
- Measure and mix ingredients together in a bowl
- Pour liquids into a bowl
- Wash fruits and vegetables off under cold water
- Use a cookie cutter to cut shapes out of cookie dough or sandwiches
- Lick the cake batter off of a spoon (yum!)



Kids aged 6–8 can:

- Open packages
- Use a butter knife to spread frosting, cream cheese, peanut butter or soft cheese
- Peel vegetables
- Measure ingredients
- Stir ingredients in a bowl
- Set the table



Kids aged 9–12 can:

- Begin to follow a recipe
- Open cans
- Use electrical kitchen appliances, such as a microwave oven, when a grown-up is present
- Use a grater to shred cheese and vegetables
- Turn stove burners on and off and select oven temperature when a grown-up is present
- Help plan the meal
- Make a salad



Kids aged 14+ can:

- Operate the stove or oven without an adult present
- Heat food up in the microwave without an adult present
- Drain cooked pasta into a colander
- Take a tray of food out of the oven



The name and image of Sparky are trademarks of the NFPA.

Prevent Wildfires

By Scott Murray, Fire Protection Specialist

It seems that every time we hear a news report this summer there is a story about a new wildfire or the ongoing efforts to contain the existing fires. We also hear the reports of the loss of property and the loss of lives such as the 19 firefighters in Arizona. And with the

dog days of summer upon us, now would be a good time to remind folks of the dangers of grass and wildfires, how to prevent them and what to do if you encounter one.

It doesn't take much for a grass fire to develop into a wildfire, and unfortunately, no matter how many times we are educated about grass fire prevention, every summer season, too many seem to appear. While many grass fires are ignited by obvious, careless human efforts, like burning garbage, abandoning a smoldering camp fire or carelessly discarding smoking materials, they can start surprisingly easily and often without our knowledge. These may be things like lightning, a lawnmower blade striking a rock, a spark from a passing train, or an electric fence wire snapping against a metal post. It doesn't take much of a breeze to fuel a grass-kindled flame that covers just a few yards to grow into an inferno spanning several acres. Time is crucial when trying to prevent a small, grass fire from turning into a destructive blaze, so we need to plan ahead as much as possible on situations that we can control.



The first step to reduce the chance of a grass fire transpiring within your property's confines is to cut and trim tall, dry grass. Some of these common, potentially dangerous areas are along driveways and roadsides. Be especially cognizant of places where vehicles are likely to stop or idle, like around mailboxes, gates and turnouts. Check the grass around any outdoor buildings, i.e. barns, sheds and workshops. These are likely areas for the emergence of accidental fires that might be the cause of malfunctioning equipment, smokers, or even children playing with fireworks. If a grass fire should start, call 911 immediately. The sooner the fire department is notified the better the chance it can be controlled and extinguished before it gets to large. Be certain you know your escape routes and frequently check them, to ensure they are passable.

The best way to battle a grass fire is to prevent it from ever starting. Perhaps these tips will help you stay alert to these dreadful, recurring calamities.

- Obviously, don't throw cigarette or cigar butts on the ground or out of a vehicle.

- Don't burn trash, leaves, or brush outdoors, without proper supervision.

- Employ the 30-foot "safety zone" surrounding the home. Clear away loose grass, leaves, etc. away from the home, especially those living in a wooded area.

- If you have firewood, make sure you stack it at least 20-feet away from your house.

- Rake leaves, cut off dead limbs, and cut grass regularly. Remove dead branches that extend over the roof.

- Avoid parking cars, trucks or recreational vehicles on dry grass or brush. Exhaust systems on vehicles can reach a temperature of more than 1,000 degrees; it only takes about 500 degrees to start a brush fire in the summer.

- Maintain a 10-foot area that is free of brush and shrubbery around BBQ grills and propane tanks. Do not leave a grill unattended, and when finished, place ashes in a metal container and soak in water a few days until completely cooled. Before discarding the ashes from the metal container, stir them up to make sure they are not still hot.

- Stress to children the importance of not playing with fire—especially in grassy areas, fire can spread quickly and children need to be informed of the potential threat.

Make sure you are prepared and educated on what to do should you encounter a fire in your journeys.



Blue Ribbon Inspections

By Diana Sabatino, Fire Prevention Inspector

Holton Hospital, Holton

I would like to acknowledge Holton Hospital in Jackson county for their No Deficiency fire inspection in July 2013. The new Maintenance Director worked diligently on getting the building ready for his first ever health care fire inspection. Thank you Holton Hospital.



Holton Community Hospital

drive down Hwy 75 north to Mayetta. It is not easy to miss this location. Thank you Mayetta Oil company for your hard work to keep your facility in tip-top shape.

Enterprise Estates Nursing Facility, Enterprise

Thank you Enterprise Nursing facility in Dickenson County for your No Deficiency federal health care fire in-

spection in July. The Maintenance Director works very hard on keeping the building up-to-date on fire codes. Year-to-year the interior upgrades he does to the building get better and better. The staff were all friendly during my visit, and the Housekeeping staff do a great job on the cleanliness of this facility.

Mayetta Oil Company, Mayetta

A great big THANK YOU goes out to Mayetta Oil Company in Jackson county for their third year in a row of No Deficiency fire inspections for two bulk propane sites as well as the propane bottle fill. If you want to see one of the cleanest propane facilities, just

Clay Center Presbyterian Manor, Clay Center

A big kudos to Clay Center Presbyterian Manor in Clay County for their No Deficiency federal health care inspection in July. The new Maintenance Director has done a wonderful job on keeping their records easy to access and the fire codes in order. Also, the Housekeeping staff for the nursing facility floor does a spectacular job on the cleanliness of these wings, it is apparent much pride is taken in their duties.



Clay Center Presbyterian Manor

Investigation Update:

Arsonists Sentenced in Manhattan



Two people were sentenced in July to decades in federal prison for starting a fire that killed a Kansas State University researcher in February.

Patrick Martin Scahill, 20, of Manhattan, was sentenced to 30 years in prison and Virginia Amanda Griese, also 20, of Manhattan, was sentenced to 20 years.

Both Scahill and Griese pleaded guilty to one count of arson resulting in death. Scahill admitted to setting the fire at the Lee Crest Apartments at 820 Sunset Ave. in Manhattan on Feb. 6. He said he started the fire to divert police from finding evidence of other criminal activity at his apartment. Instead, the fire killed Vasanta Pallem, a K-State researcher who lived at the Lee Crest Apartments.



Mark your calendar!

BATS Training Scheduled

BATS Data Entry Training

Two sessions:

Aug. 14—1-5 pm

Aug. 15—10 am—2 pm

Overland Park, KS Fire

Training Center

Overland Park, Ks

To register, contact Carolyn Lowry at Carolyn.lowry@ksfm.ks.gov

167 Investigators Attend BATS Training

By Rose Rozmiarek, Chief of Investigations



From June 18th to June 20th the Office of the State Fire Marshal hosted six half day classes on the proper use and data entry for the Federal BATS fire and explosive case reporting system. The BATS system is managed by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The system allows for incident / case reporting to a national database for Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and fire departments. Law Enforcement agencies and fire departments with law enforcement access have national search capabilities and fire departments with FDID numbers have limited access. In April 2013 the OSFM decided to utilize the BATS system for fire investigations and mandated that all the Local Certified Fire Investigators utilize the system as per statute and regulations require. All fires and explosions investigated by the Certified Fire Investigators must be reported within 30 days of the incident. Even with the previous database system not all investigators were reporting within 30 days or even reporting at all. This lack of reporting hinders the investigative tools for potential suspect identification, tracking of potential serial arsonists, as well as identifying

fire cause trends. With the switching to the BATS system, the agency hopes the reporting will improve.

Jeremy Holloway, Special Agent with the BATFE conducted the training with the assistance of the local BATFE agents and the OSFM personnel. A total of 167 investigators attended the training from all areas of the state. The investigators were instructed on the use of BATS as well as specific requirements needed for the compliance to the certified investigators' regulations. There are still several investigators that need to attend the training and the office is currently working on scheduling those sessions. We tentatively are looking at August 14th and 15th in the Johnson County area. We will notify the investigators as soon as the dates and locations are confirmed.

All case data that is currently in our old reporting database will be transferred to the BATS system in the near future.

Also as a reminder, if you have a problem with accessing BATS or your password needs to be reset you will need to contact the BATS help line for password issues and BATFE for access / use issues. The Office of the State Fire Marshal does not have any other access

As a reminder, for proper reporting:

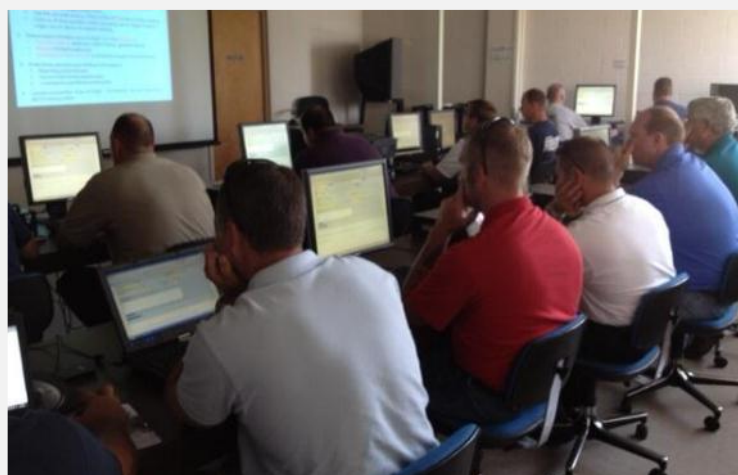
- When a local investigator

entered a case into BATS if they restrict the case they must give the Kansas State Fire Marshal agency 'Read' access to the case so the agency has the required data per the regulation.

- If a local investigator works a case with one of the OSFM investigators again they do #1 above and each agency will enter their own case into BATS, complete the de-confliction statement and link the two cases together. Each investigator will then give the investigator from the other agency 'write' capability so they can share documents.
- Cases must be entered within 30 days and that will be monitored for compliance for certification requirements per regulation.

For documentation for recertification:

- The applications are now available on our new website that can be printed off and completed.
- When sending in your recertification paperwork you must attach copies of all associated documentation. If you upload the information into BATS we cannot view it.



Support the Fallen Firefighter Memorial



In 2001 legislation was signed that authorized the construction of a memorial to be built on the Capitol grounds in Topeka to honor Kansas firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

A scaled replica is housed at the Office of the State Fire Marshal where it is on view. The OSFM also transports the replica to fire service events across the state.

Please send your tax deductible donation to:

Firefighters Memorial Fund
Attn: Eldred Wenger, DFM
700 SW Harrison, Room 1015
Topeka, KS 66603